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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

28 May 1968

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Ulbricht Leads High-Level Delegation To Moscow

East German leader Walter Ulbricht--in the USSR on vacation since early May--will head a high level party-government delegation in Moscow for talks starting 29 May.

It is assumed that Ulbricht, will cut short his holiday and join other members of the delegation when they arrive from the GDR. The delegation will include Premier Willi Stoph and party secretaries Erich Honecker, Guenter Mittag and Albert Norden, all politburo members, as well as GDR Foreign Minister Otto Winzer and ambassador to the USSR Horst Bittner.

East Germans may lobby for increased pressure on West Berlin, possibly presenting this as a means to counter liberal trends elsewhere in Eastern Europe and of course hoping to advance their own interests. It is also likely that the East Germans will press the Soviet leaders for their views on the situation in Prague as seen in the light of Kosygin's recent trip.

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East Germans Fear Popular Unrest

The regime is showing signs that it fears popular reaction in the form of civil disobedience in the wake of the liberal changes in Czechoslovakia.

The role of the Kampfgruppen, which held nation-wide exercises over the week-end, was stressed by GDR media on 27 May. The significant part played by the Kampfgruppen in discouraging "revanchist" moves during the early stages of building the Berlin Wall in 1961 were highlighted. The Kampfgruppen's strong allegiance to the party also was stressed.

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Local Students-East Germans Could Cause Trouble for Berlin

The gymnastics festival that begins today in West Berlin may become the target of the city's rebellious leftist students as well as an excuse for East German interference in autobahn traffic.

The students, already incensed over the emergency legislation issue scheduled to be considered in Bonn on 29 May, have occupied an institute building at the Free University since 20 May. Turmoil at the university caused the cancellation of a local sports festival last week in Berlin because of the threat of a demonstration by the "extra-parliamentary opposition" (APO). The Mission had no reports of APO plans to disrupt the gymnastics festival, expected to attract some 65,000 visitors to Berlin, but felt that the students' hunger for publicity might draw them out.

The East Germans, for their part, have already condemned the festival as a cold war "political provocation." West German President Heinrich Luebke is scheduled to attend the festival on 31 May which might trigger a strong reaction from Pankow. To further exacerbate the situation, the strikes in France have caused Air France, one of the three carriers licensed to fly to West Berlin, to request help from PanAm and BEA to carry its portion of spectators to the festival.

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Winiewicz Clarifies Polish Foreign Ministry Situation

During Ambassador Gronouski's farewell call on acting Foreign Minister Winiewicz on 24 May, the veteran, pro-Western Deputy Minister appeared confident, and affably gave his views on a number of topical subjects.

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Winiewicz took the regime line that Foreign Minister Rapacki is now resting on doctors' orders, but that beginning in September Rapacki would have a busy schedule in anticipation of the party congress scheduled for the fall. Winiewicz implied that Rapacki--whose political position has been shaky and who is reported to have resigned in early April--would be returning to the Foreign Ministry in September.

The ministry would henceforth have three deputy ministers, according to Winiewicz, implying that he, and the newly appointed Kruczkowski and Wolniak would be the three. Veteran, pro-Soviet, and Jewish Deputy Minister Naszkowski is "awaiting another assignment."

Winiewicz frankly admitted that the "thrust from below" in Poland has seriously affected the Foreign Ministry, where the "young people" resent entrenched Jewish incumbents and want a higher proportion of people of "our own kind" in positions of authority.

Turning to international developments, Winiewicz bluntly stated that Polish anxiety over Czechoslovakia stemmed from fear that developments there might turn out to be "1948 in reverse." In the first such statement by a Polish official, Winiewicz also expressed the regime's concern about the French situation, which the Polish public media have so far ignored.

American-Polish Evangelist Gets Three-Year Sentence

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The long delayed trial of Pennsylvania born Church of Christ evangelist, Henryk Ciszek, ended in Warsaw on 25 May with a three-year sentence meted out to Ciszek and a Polish co-defendant.

Ciszek had been arrested in April 1967 on charges of illegal religious activity (the regime does not recognize the Church of Christ congregation), and on charges of attempting to smuggle abroad information "alleging religious persecution in Poland."

US Embassy officers had not been able to gain access to Ciszek since his arrest, although he has received mail and packages. The US considers Ciszek an American citizen, although the Poles say that he renounced his citizenship in 1958 to become a Polish citizen.

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